Springfield Township High School

**Graduation Project Annotated Bibliography**

**Student Name:**

**Annotation # 14**

**MLA Citation:**

"Public Transportation: Benefits for the 21st Century." *APTA*. N.p., n.d. Web. 9 Mar. 2011. <www.apta.com/resources/reportsandpublications/Documents/twenty\_first\_century.pdf>.

**INFORMATION:**

Author’s credentials:

The American Public Transportation Association published this report. The APTA is a group that advocates for American investment in the field of public transportation. They are advocates for reaching out to local governments and municipalities and informing them of the benefits of public transportation. This effort also comes from the groups various published reports that speak on the topics of public transportation and its adaptation in American cities and communities.

Scope and purpose of the work:

The purpose of this work is to inform people of the various benefits that public transportation provides to communities in America. This report covers a wide scope of topics and addresses each one thoroughly. The report cites several statistics and previously conducted studies that support the position in favor of public transportation.

Intended Audience:

The intended audience of this report is lay people looking to get a better sense of the benefits of public transportation. The report uses graphs and non-technical language to make it accessible to all. This report is meant to be an overview of a wide variety of topics so different sections stand out and is more informative for different people in different fields of occupation.

**SUMMARY**

Thesis or main idea:

“Public transportation is critical to our nation’s transportation system and is essential to the economic and social quality of life of our citizens” (“Public Transportation: Benefits for the 21st Century”)

Summary of main arguments:

* Revitalizes business districts
* Allows employers to tap into larger workforces
* Builds economic revenues and increases property values
* Reduces dependence on foreign oil
* Saves people money
  + Provides them with choices, freedom and opportunities (“Public Transportation: Benefits for the 21st Century” 1)

**EVIDENCE**

Summary of evidence:

* “1,500 agencies provide bus service, 80 provide rail service, 5,960 provide paratransit services and 120 provide services on other modes.” (“Public Transportation: Benefits for the 21st Century” 3)
* “Buses and trains are easy to get on and off with stops announced to riders. New information technologies alert passengers by e-mail or cell phone when the next bus or train is coming…some commuter buses and trains now have Wi-Fi capabilities—becoming, rolling, internet cafes.” (“Public Transportation: Benefits for the 21st Century” 3)
* Building a strong economy
  + “estimated that every $10 million in capital investment in public transportation yields $30 million in increased business sales, and that every $10 million in operating investment in public transportation yileds $32 million in increased business sales.” (“Public Transportation and the Nation’s Economy: A Quantitative Analysis of Public Transportation’s Economic Impact” qtd. “Public Transportation: Benefits for the 21st Century” 4)
* Reducing Oil Dependence
  + Chart on page 5
* Relieves Congestion
  + “In New York City, the Lincoln Tunnel exclusive bus lanes accommodate 1,700 buses and 62,000 passengers a day, saving passengers 15-20 minutes in the morning rush hour compared with regular traffic.” (“Public Transportation: Benefits for the 21st Century” 6)
* Safer
  + Fewer accidents than automobiles

**EVALUATION**

Evaluation of research:

This article has a lot of research behind it. There are several studies cited in the paper that provide good evidence for the reports topics. This wealth of background information makes the points that the report is trying to make even stronger. This is good for the APTA because it helps them build their case and provide real facts to back up their arguments.

 Evaluation of scope:

The report covers a wide variety of topics ranging from a national level all the way down to the individual level. Such a diverse discussion of topics is good and allows for more insightful thought by the APTA. They are able to make a better case for public transportation by analyzing everything it effects. By looking at the personal level the report is really able to connect with the reader and show them the benefits of public transportation.

Evaluation of author bias:

Obviously the report is biased in favor of public transportation. The APTA advocates for federal funding going towards public transportation investments. The APTA also advocates for more local funding to be put towards public transportation.

**REFLECTION:**

This source provided a lot of good statistics surrounding American public transportation. However, the article was biased and only pointed out the good things and overlooked the negative aspects. These statistics do make the report valuable and will strengthen my argument on why SEPTA needs to adapt to new 21st century technologies. Information about the positive benefits of public transportation will be important whenever I draw any conclusions based on whatever suggestions I might make.